

ACALANES PARENTS CLUB

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October 10, 1997

ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

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Blueprint photo by Alexis Weir

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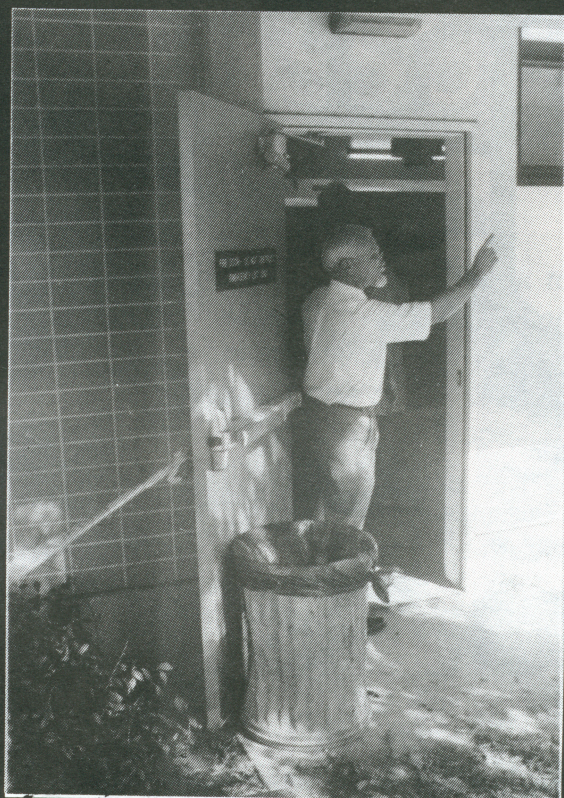
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Photo of the Issue

The girl's locker room was closed on Tuesday, September 23, due to a hose leak in the bleach storage tank for the pool. "The smell of the bleach was...a little irritating...but there was no real danger," said Principal Keith Schmidt. The locker room was closed for about an hour, which caused a brief inconvenience for many athletes as well as students. "[The girl's waterpolo team] couldn't change in the locker room...it was very inconveniencing," said sophomore Emily Crouch.



Courtesy of Yacy Zand

Blueprint '97-'98

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 Anne Kim
 Bret Taylor

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Julie Zorn

Feature Editor

Vanessa Totten

Opinion Editor

David Drevno

Entertainment Editor

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Sports Editor

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ON THE COVER: The Men's Waterpolo team protests the new deck-changing rule by changing at Shell.

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Acalanes Blueprint
 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd.
 Lafayette, CA 94549

Tel: (510) 935-2600 ext. 127

A CALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

INSIDE



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Gives to the
Community
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Blueprint

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HATE CRIMES

Graffiti Paints Bleak Picture for New Year

By Jennie Saulsbury

Staff Writer

Graffiti, some so harsh that it has been reported to the Lafayette police as a hate crime, "welcomed" certain students and teachers on the first day of school this year.

Freshman, a few teachers, and members of the gay and lesbian student group Project 10 received a heated if not warm welcome in the form of slanderous graffiti chalked on walls and doors on September 2.

The graffiti, which contained profanity, inappropriate drawings and derogatory comments such as "faggot", enraged both administrators and students alike. "We're taking this matter very, very seriously," said Assistant Principal Paul Mack who was responsible for filing the police report and suspending some of the students involved.

"Because it falls under hate/violence it is a violation to the penal code as well as an unnecessary disruption on the first day of school," said Mack.

Hate crimes, which are any crimes "perpetrated in whole or in part against another person or against property due to the race, religion, color, ethnic background, gender or sexual orientation of the target," violate Civil Rights code 422.6, according to a definition provided by Deputy Louie Kroll with the Lafayette police department. Civil Rights code 422.6, which states that "No person... shall knowingly deface, damage or destroy... the property of any other person for the purpose of intimidating or interfering...", can be punishable by up to one year in a county jail, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

"When I first saw the things written, I was amazed," said David Smith, a junior and Co-president of Project 10, the only group singled out in the graffiti, "Why would somebody write that?"

More than anger, however, some students felt surprise that members of their class would write the graffiti. "It's kind of sad that people who are supposed to be out in the world as adults in a few years would be immature enough to do this," said senior Becka Hewitt "I don't think it's right how they criticized Project 10 and the freshman class. Everybody has the right to be here," she said.

English teacher and Project 10 advisor Erik Seebass, who was one of the teachers singled out in the graffiti, also felt it was best not to let the incident bother him.

"I think every class has a right to be proud of themselves, but any class involved in that graffiti has nothing to be proud of."

-Everett Woolfolk

"I found it amusing. The grammatical errors in the graffiti really entertained me. I guess ignorance always goes hand in hand with intolerance," he said.

Not all students agree that the incident should receive as much attention as it has. One junior, who wished to remain anonymous, felt the incident was just a harmless prank. "It's done every year at the start of school, at homecoming, and at graduation. I don't really agree with what was written but it was chalk. It washes off. What's the big deal?" he said.

The "big deal" for Head Custodian Everett Woolfolk was clean-up. "I'm a little upset. I'm the only custodian on dur-

ing the day. Graffiti like that ruins my whole day. All my work backs up and it's not good to be a day behind on the first day of school," he said. "I work very hard to keep this school clean. I don't mind the chalking of class years...I think every class has a right to be proud of themselves, but any class involved in that graffiti has nothing to be proud of."

Principal Keith Schmidt also believes the incident reflects badly on the students at Acalanes. "It gives an overall image that I think most of the school doesn't want a part of," he said. Seebass, however, had a contrary opinion. "One idiot with a piece of chalk is not going to wreck our view of how Acalanes is or what our potential is," he said.

Through the use of security guards hired every year to watch the school the weekend before classes start and eyewitness accounts, the administration has identified most of those involved with some of the graffiti, according to Mack and Schmidt.

Lafayette police officer Ken Whitlatch is still trying to determine who is responsible for the part of the graffiti directed at Project 10. Those involved could end up in the youth diversion program or have the case tried by the district attorney's office, said Whitlatch.

Some of the students implicated by the school have received suspensions and others have received punishments based on their involvement according to school officials. The administration would not specify how many were punished or to what extent.

"I don't really care if the people involved are punished or not...I just wish they would be intelligent and not do things like this," Smith said. "Hate is just a way of being blind to things that are different from us."

NEWS FOCUS

Teacher "Welcome" Rallies Change

Controversy Over Rally Results in New School Policy

By Rand Dadasovich and
Jennie Saulsbury
Copy Editor and Staff Writer

New rally guidelines, including the requirement of a full dress rehearsal one week in advance, have been implemented following what many call "degrading" pranks played against new teachers and freshman at September's Welcome Rally.

After being introduced to the student body, the six new Acalanes teachers, unaware of what was to take place, were instructed to kneel on all fours while volunteers attempted to balance glasses of milk on the teachers' backs. Most of the milk spilled on the teachers as they tried to get up, and one student, who misunderstood the instructions, poured milk directly on teacher Andrew Thompson. Both administrators and faculty felt the prank was demeaning and pointless.

"They say they want the responsibility, and we give them the opportunity to show that, but sometimes they fall short."

-Paul Mack

"I thought it was really disconcerting for the new teachers to be subjected to that kind of welcome," said Assistant Principal Paul Mack.

Leadership advisor Rod Keillor said the incident had not been planned to embarrass anyone but had gotten out of hand due to a lack of communication between the rally board and the teachers. "I think it was extremely disorganized and I

was very, very embarrassed at the outcome... especially how the freshman and new teachers were treated," he said.

Rally Board Head Nick Webb was unavailable for comment, but Rally Board member Sim Peyron said that the intention of the new teacher game had been to welcome the teachers in a playful manner, or "Acalanes style" as an advance leadership memo stated. "We only had a couple weeks to plan it, and with the rally board consisting of all new members, we weren't as efficient and organized as we should have been." According to Peyron, one student had been instructed to inform the teachers of the prank but, due to lack of organization and communication, the teachers were never warned.

The question of intent was also on the victims' minds. Thompson, one of the new teachers involved in the incident, said he understood how the Rally Board had not intended harm. The game "seemed an idea that looked fun on paper, but it was not what everybody hoped it would be. Nobody could convince me that they set out with malicious intent. It was just poor judgment."

"I don't think it was meant to be mean," said new English and Social Science teacher Lyenne Denny. "I know that we were all mostly young women made to get down on our hands and knees which could be seen as sexual, but I don't believe that of any of the students here. I don't want to believe that of anybody," she said.

Principal Keith Schmidt's comments were similar. "The intent, I think, was to be funny. If I thought the tone was malicious, I would have taken action because some of (what went on) looks a lot like hazing, and hazing is strictly forbidden. The problem with humor is, what is

humor? Sometimes what gets the biggest laughs is making someone look stupid. This is a case of looking for humor and crossing the line," he said.

Mack believes that the Rally Board's lack of responsibility "undermined" the real purpose of the rally...to welcome new students and teachers to Acalanes. "They say they want the responsibility, and we give them the opportunity to show that, but sometimes they fall short," he said.

"This is a case of looking for humor and crossing the line."

-Keith Schmidt

Though the prank had been intended to be a surprise, rally board members had meant to give the teachers some sort of warning and, in some cases, they did not fall completely short. "I was warned to bring a change of clothes, but I didn't really think of it after that. Maybe if it had been stressed a little more that there was an activity planned that would be messy, I would have remembered the clothes and it would have been no big deal," Thompson said. Denny, however, said she was not warned to bring extra clothes.

"I heard there was supposed to have been a student who went around and warned us that we would need extra clothes. I guess he just missed a few of us, because I never heard anything about it," said Denny.

Because of the misunderstandings and lack of organization that resulted in embarrassment for those involved in the rallies, the leader-

NEWS FOCUS



Freshmen Alexis Klein and Kaylan Massie receive a bittersweet taste of Acalanes at the September Welcome Rally. Both students were informed of the practical jokes prior to the rally, unlike the six new teachers.

ship class voted to enact new guidelines for rallies. These include "a typed and detailed agenda of all rallies ten days prior to the event", and a full dress rehearsal with the leadership advisor and/or administration present. Any rally that does not meet these guidelines will be canceled, according to the new policy.

Schmidt, however, is not sure if the guidelines will work. "We always supervise, but the question is can we have complete control? Even with plans and dress rehearsals, things can go wrong. Last year's senior fashion show, for example. A lot of that inappropriate behavior didn't show up in the dress rehearsal," he said.

"It's too bad guidelines have to be done," said Mack, "but if the students need that extra guidance, we'll give it to them."

Thompson concurs with the idea that many of the rally's planned activities, though unintentional, resembled hazing, both for the teachers and freshmen. "I guess I was given the choice about participating, but I had no idea it would revolve around 'frat' behavior. Had we all seen the plastic on the floor and said 'no way,' I would fear we'd be seen as poor sports," said Thompson.

Thompson.

Denny also felt pressure to participate in the game. "We felt either go along with it or get jeered by the kids," she said.

Senior Becka Hewett felt sympathy for the new teachers. "We were laughing at their expense, and there was no way for them to fight back. They couldn't have walked away."

Denny said that the rally's lack of planning was reflected by the absence of protective clothing for the teachers. "The floors were covered and we weren't. It makes me think 'where are the priorities here?'" she said.

Many teachers and administrators said that several of the rally's activities were also "demeaning" towards freshmen. For example, in one game, two representatives from each class tried to eat as many bananas as they could while helpers poured whipped cream and chocolate sauce down their throats. Once the game had started, all participants tore off their blindfolds, except for the freshmen. The audience laughed while the two freshmen were drenched in syrup and whipped cream, head to toe. Some teachers felt that this game was representative of a larger pattern of intolerance, including activities such as milk bombing and graffiti.

Thompson said that he thought freshman "hazing" is something that goes on in every school and a problem that may need to be addressed. "It's not ever talked about and I think it's unfair that the freshmen need to go through this at any school. They are new to the experience of high school and what this teaches them, from the word go, is to treat different that which is new. That's what saddens me," he said.

Hewett said that the Freshman activities cannot be placed in the same category as the new teacher activities because the two freshmen involved volunteered to participate, whereas the teachers did not. "I don't necessarily agree with the games, but at least the freshmen had some idea of what was going to happen to them, and then gave their consent to do it," said Hewett.

Freshman Alexis Klein, who participated in the banana eating game, said she didn't mind giving her consent to get messy. "I thought that was what rallies were all about.. playing fun games," she said. She thought that her feelings would have been different, however, if she had been in the situation of the new teachers. "If nobody had told me what was going on or asked my permission, I would have been upset," she said.

Both Denny and Thompson said that, despite the bad experience of the rally, their outlook towards Acalanes remains positive. "Maybe if nobody had said anything it wouldn't have," said Denny, "but everybody was very apologetic and upset. They offered to pay for our cleaning bills or get us new clothes or do what ever it took to fix the situation."

Both teachers and administrators hope to continue having rallies, though they hope to see the focus changed. "The point of rallies has shifted, which I think is something the Rally board needs to look at. They are meant to raise school spirit, not promote class competition," said Schmidt.

This is the first of a two-part series on Acalanes' school climate.

DECK CHANGING

Policy Strips Freedom to Deck Change

Controversy Settled When Polo Players Throw in Towel

By Chris Kinney
Staff Writer

In response to a new policy prohibiting them from changing into their swimsuits on the pool deck, an estimated 20 boy's waterpolo players marched in a brief protest to the Acalanes parking lot bordering Stanley Blvd. and changed under towels in front of commute traffic on Friday, September 12th.

In the wake of a parent complaint about boys waterpolo players changing into their Speedos in public on the pool deck, principal Keith Schmidt declared the area off limits for changing.

Schmidt's foremost concern is that deck changing is a distraction which would "derail a practice" for the members of the opposite sex.

Waterpolo teams will not be treated any differently than any other sports team, and they must now change in the locker rooms, said Mr. Schmidt.

The boys' sidewalk show was a one time only incident, and they now change in the locker rooms. If they were to change on the pool deck again the punishment could be as severe as suspension, said Schmidt.

Attention to the practice came after a girls' waterpolo player's parent walked in one afternoon and saw the boys deck change. The parent was worried that his or her daughter might see something unpleasant and complained to the administration.

Deck changing, which had been a customary practice at Acalanes for at least four years, according to senior varsity waterpolo players, involves wrapping a towel around the waist, removing undergarments, and then pulling up a speedo under the towel, without revealing anything indecent.

Deck changing, "is a perfectly harmless tradition," said a waterpolo player who asked that his name be withheld.

The complaint made its way up to Schmidt, who didn't see deck changing as a harmless tradition. "If a situation were to arise where a towel dropped, how would I explain it when we have perfectly good locker rooms to change in?" Schmidt was unaware that deck changing took place, but after learning what a deck change involved, he put a stop to it.

Anne Wondolowski, the mother of a girls' waterpolo player, has witnessed deck changing many times, and has seen no problem with the act. "It doesn't bother me, because when the guys do it they are discreet about it."

The general opinion of the girls JV waterpolo team is that "We don't really care," according to Sara Jacobs.

Girls varsity waterpolo coach and Acalanes teacher Mike McAlister feels, however, that "it is an issue of respect, and it deals with what good manners are." He doesn't want the girls on his team to be exposed to the guys deck changing. McAlister also believes that the waterpolo team (or the swim team) should not be exempt from using the locker rooms when all the other sports teams are supposed to use the locker rooms which his tax dollars went to support.

Another girl on the team said that one time the girls' locker room was locked, so they had to deck change. The girls were glad that McAlister wasn't there, for if he were, they wouldn't have been able to deck change, she said.

However, sophomore Ana Estrada thinks that "Deck changing is rude and disrespectful, and it should be done in private."

Although the waters has calmed over the issue, there are still ripples of dissatisfaction. "I think that it's rather ridiculous that we're being forced to go in the locker rooms when it's so much easier and convenient to deck change with a towel," said sophomore Danny Holligan.



Members of the Men's Varsity Waterpolo team deck change on Stanley Blvd. in protest of the new policy prohibiting the activity.

NEW CLASSES

New Classes Add Variety to Schedules

By Sara Eckholm

Staff Writer

Three new classes have been added to the Acalanes curriculum, offering both variety and new opportunities for the '97-'98 school year.

Dance class

One of the most popular new classes is the zero period dance class. For those willing to get up early enough to start dancing at seven o'clock every morning, it offers students an alternative to P.E. The class is taught by freshman English and World History teacher Lyenne Denney. She has been dancing since she was a child, and hopes to teach the class a variety of dance styles, including jazz, hip-hop and even ballet.

Sophomore Chris Kinney is one of four males in a class of 38 and really enjoys the class. The class was first suggested by senior Meghan Ray two years ago, but was never offered as a full course until this year. She thinks it's good that the class is focusing on basics, and likes the music that they dance to. "Ms. Denney is a great teacher," said Ray.

Sports Medicine

Anyone who is interested in sports medicine can get hands-on training while working with Certified Athletic Trainer Julie Everett in another new class this year. The class "will be experience for everybody from being a fitness trainer, to a personal trainer, to whatever kind of physical therapist, doctor, it just gives them a basic idea of anatomy and physiology." Senior Katie Felix said that the class can prepare her for a future career and likes the attention she gets being in class with only 7 other Acalanes students.

The class engages in lecture 2 days a week, labs 2 days a week and guest speakers once a week. The class is Regional Occupation Program (ROP) career development class, which means it is available to kids from schools other than Acalanes. The class is worth one year of elective credits.



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Seniors Kelly Stow and Katie Felix practice bandaging techniques during sixth period ROP Sports Medicine, one of the new classes being offered this year.

Virtual High School

The last new edition to the Acalanes curriculum is perhaps the most diverse, as well as the most technologically advanced. Virtual High School and allows a student to actually complete a course completely through the Internet. It is not only the first time that this is being done at Acalanes, but also the first time in the nation.

The students must be responsible and block out the time that they are going to spend on the program. While the school provides time each day to use the computers at Acalanes, many opt to use their own personal computers. Like a regular class, the students interact with the teacher through what is called a learning center, and take the class, including homework assignments and tests, just as they would be if they were actually sitting in a classroom. Paul Bernard, the Acalanes coordinator, has been working on the project ever since the program was conceived last year. Barnard said he "sees it as a growing method whereby our students who are starved for alternatives will be able to pick those alternatives up."

There are 26 classes offered and ten students enrolled in classes that range from AP Statistics, to Folklore and Literature of Myth, Magic and Ritual, to Russian and Soviet and post-Soviet studies. Acalanes French teacher, Stan Oberg is teaching a French class for VHS. He has 4 students enrolled and is continually adding to the course, and checking on the students work. Senior Stephanie Wight is taking the VHS class Russian Soviet studies. "It (VHS) was offering classes that Acalanes didn't offer, that I thought would be interesting," she said. The class is worth elective credits that are accepted by California Universities, and the class may be open for re-enrollment next semester.

Every year very few new ideas for classes are suggested, said counselor Bob Gangi. The decision on what classes are added is made by the counselors and the administrators. Anyone who has class suggestions is encouraged to discuss them with a counselor. "Anytime you can broaden the elective options the elective options for students, give them more opportunities, it's important," said Gangi.

NUGGETS

NEWSBRIEF

Diablo Food Loses Scrip Funds

By Julie Zorn

News Editor

An estimated \$95,000 loss to Diablo Foods' Scrip program — a Lafayette Art and Science Foundation fundraiser — will not affect the LASF program, store owner Ed Stokes said.

Stokes said the loss was the result of forged Scrip "dollars," which LASF supporters purchased and then used to buy groceries. The store then donated between five and six percent of such sales to LASF. Stokes, who said plans were in place to make the Scrip dollars harder to forge, added that Diablo Foods, not LASF, would lose money in the event.

Diablo Foods first recognized the problem in accounting. "We thought it was an accounting error, and we dismissed it like it wasn't a big thing, but that wasn't the case," said Stokes.

The problem came to light to the pub-

lic when Diablo Foods posted a notice at checkstands apologizing for a temporary disruption in the program. The notice indicated that it was investigating possible fraud. A police investigation is continuing, said Detective Justin Gregory of the Lafayette Police Department.

Although Stokes would not confirm the amount of the loss, an informed source indicated it was as much as \$95,000.

LASF annually raises about \$500,000 benefitting arts and science programs in Lafayette Schools. Other stores taking part in the Scrip program, who did not incur forgeries, are McCaulous, Safeway, Luckys, Lunardi's, COSTCO, Kay Bee Toys, Macy's, JC Penny, and Longs Drugs. "Stores take a risk by contributing to the Scrip program," said Connie Collier, Fundraiser for LASF.

NEWSBRIEF

Art and Wine Fest

By Julie Zorn

News Editor

Overcoming another hurdle in fundraising efforts, the Lafayette Art and Science Foundation (LASF) successfully put on its annual Art and Wine Festival and winemaker's dinner on September 19-21, despite union objection.

The Hotel, Restaurant, and Bartenders Employees Union sent out "fifty to seventy five letters to [LASF] board of directors and [LASF] supporters" to urge them to protest the winemaker's dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel, a hotel reluctant to join the Union, said Union representative Elaine Peterson.

LASF "did not receive any calls," said LASF President Carol Drevno, nor did any protestors boycott the winemaker's dinner at the hotel.

The winemaker's dinner consisted of a "delicious dinner and a silent auction," said LASF Fundraiser Connie Collier. Two hundred and twenty people attended the event at \$90 per person; \$55 per person went to the hotel and the rest went to LASF. "From the silent auction and dinner, [LASF] raised \$25,203," said Collier.

The Art and Wine Festival took place during the next two days, September 20-21. "Last year LASF netted \$2000 out of the event...I am hoping for \$3000-\$4000 this year," said Collier. The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is calculating the exact amount raised from this event, but refused to comment on the total.

NEWSBRIEF

Morning Math with Matt

By Rand Dadasovich

Copy Editor

As part of a math enrichment program sponsored by LASF, Acalanes has hired UC Berkeley Ph.D. candidate Matt Baker to lead weekly meetings for students wishing to further explore the world of mathematics.

Math Department chairman Rich Klier said the purpose of the program is to give an opportunity for students to increase their knowledge in types of math that may not be taught in formal classes. Our "real goal is for the (students) who show up... to think to themselves that is was worth it," said Klier.

The meetings give students an

opportunity to practice math that isn't usually taught in the classroom, said senior Tim Foley who attended the first meeting held Wednesday, September 10th. "I think it is a great program. It gives me the chance to have fun with a different kind of mathematics."

The direction of the program will be determined by the interest of those involved. There are many competitions the group can prepare for including the Bay Area Math Meet, the Polya Competition, the American High School Math Exam, and the Mandelbrot Competition.

The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 7:45 in room 314.

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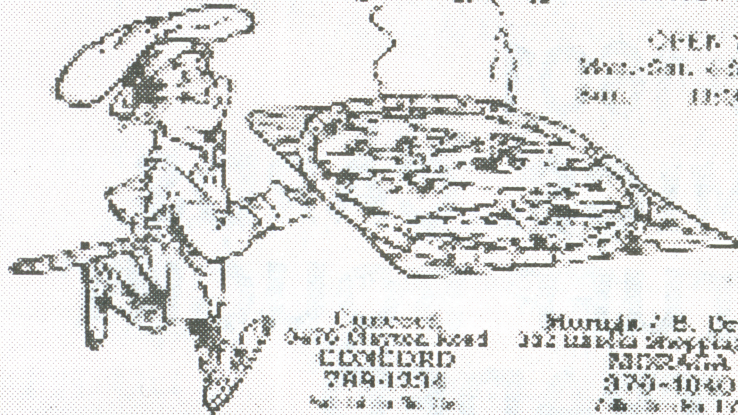
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COMMUNITY SERVICE

Acalanes Students Lend Helping Hand

New Changes in Community Service Requirement Start This Year

By Jennie Saulsbury
Staff Writer

It's the bettering of one's self. It's giving back to the community. It's a learning experience. It's mandatory. It's community service and it's making students mad.

And now community service is a four year requirement.

In an attempt to teach students to learn to appreciate helping others and giving back to their community, Acalanes has extended its mandatory three year community service policy into four years, causing some unhappiness among the student body.

In the past, students have been required to complete a certain number of community service hours their freshman, junior and senior years as part of their history or government classes. This year, however, Principal Keith Schmidt announced to the school in a community service assembly that sophomores would also be required to participate.

"We wanted there to be more consistency in community service so we decided to have it be required every year. Community service is what holds the society together. We thought that was an important enough reason to justify sophomore participation," said Schmidt.

In an attempt to get the students more involved and more excited about participating in community service, a fair was held after the assembly in which different organizations explained their causes and gave students a chance to sign up. Marilyne Armstrong, who works in the career center, came up with the idea because she thought it would make students "get involved where they may not have thought to get involved, and get involved earlier."

Some students, however, do not agree that mandatory community

service is a good way to get kids involved in their community. "I don't think the fair or the assembly will help much because, if people want to help, they will do it on their own. If you have to do it for school, nobody wants to anymore," said sophomore Zach Burnside. "It's supposed to be a volunteer thing. When they make you do it, it's not volunteering. It defeats the purpose," he said.

Though Schmidt agrees that mandatory community service may seem strange, he believes it serves an important purpose. "I know it sounds strange that we want people to give up their time so we force them to do it, but we hope that over a four year period of time, they might learn the value of it," he said.

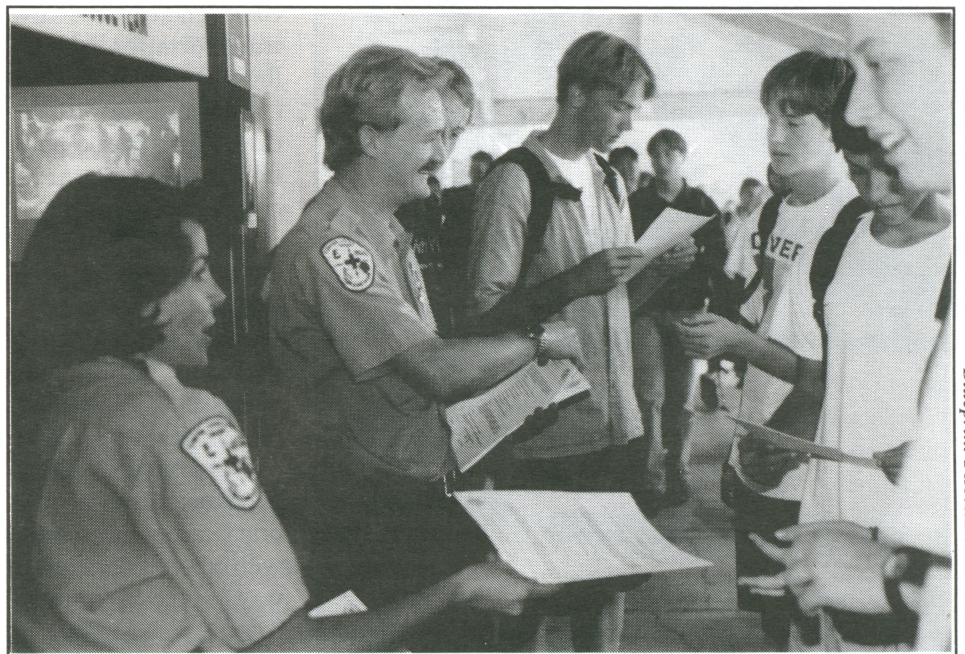
Senior Clifford Pun, however, says that he agrees with the changes. "You should do it whether it's required or not. We need to spend a lot more time contributing our time," he said.

Pun was angered that a lot of students were unhappy at the prospect of doing another year of community service. "When it was announced we would all have to do community service, a lot of freshmen and sophomores were booing and groaning. I thought that was really rude, but I guess it's a sign of the times," he said.

"I think what went on at the assembly shows a maturing process that happens between freshman and sophomore year," said Schmidt.

Despite the complaints, Schmidt and Armstrong believe that students will learn to appreciate the extra hours. "There is no application, no scholarship form that you will fill out that does not ask for community service. It definitely gives you an advantage," said Armstrong.

"I think there's much more to it than just getting a good grade or getting into college that kids will learn to appreciate," said Schmidt. "It betters the world we live in. If enough people light candles, pretty soon the place is pretty bright."



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Contra Costa Search and Rescue members pass out information to eager students after an assembly encouraging volunteerism.

DRIVING LAW

Driving Bill Puts Brakes on Student Driving

By Julie Zorn
News Editor

Teenagers are on a collision course with a new state law that will require them to swap the easy road to get their license with the safer one.

Teens will have added restrictions regarding driving privileges starting July of 1998, if Senate Bill 1329 is signed into law.

The bill changes both driving privileges and permit requirements. A teenager will be required to have their permit for six months before taking the test for their provisional license compared to the previous 30 day requirement.

If teens pass their driver's test, there are new restrictions for them during the time that they have their provisional license. For one year after passing the test, students cannot drive between 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., and six months after the test a student cannot drive with a passenger under the age of 20. Research shows that situations endangering teens are "night driving and driving

with passengers," said Chris Mowrer, Senior Consultant for Senator Tim Lesley.

Senator Lesley of Northern California introduced the bill because he was concerned by the high number of teen accidents in comparison to the low number of teen drivers. "Teenagers comprise only 4% of drivers in California, yet 9% of fatalities, 10% of injuries, and 2/3 of accidents are caused by teens," said Mowrer. The bill has passed both the California State Senate and Assembly and is waiting to be signed by Governor Wilson.

The night driving and no passenger restrictions will regulate the times that students can go out and the people who they can go out with. Teens will not be able to go to late night games, they will not be able to go cruising with friends, and "they will not be able to drive friends to [sports competitions]," said sophomore Gene McDonough.

These restrictions will cause problems for parents and students, but there are exceptions to the bill. "We don't want to unduly burden someone so there are exceptions," said Mowrer. Under special circumstances, which could include driving home late from a sport's competition or necessary transportation of siblings, a teenager is exempt from the law if they carry with them a note from their parents, principal, or doctor.

The carpooling restriction does cause problems for some students. "A lot of parents don't have time to drive their kids places," said sophomore Sumi Kim.

Not everyone agrees. "The majority of people don't carpool to school with other students anyway," said cross country coach Darrin Neutz.

The amount of teen drivers and the way that police plan to enforce the

WHAT HAS CHANGED

Before

1. Must hold provisional permit for at least 30 days
2. Have parent/guardian certify that he/she supervised driving
3. If failed, 2 week wait to retake test
4. No driving restrictions for any driver, regardless of age
5. At-fault crashes, alcohol-related violations have heavier penalties

Now

1. Must hold permit for at least 6 months
2. Parent/guardian must certify 50 hours of driving, 10 at night
3. Wait 1 month to retake test
4. For first 6 months, no driving between 12 and 5 a.m. or with passengers under 20
5. Additional penalties for late night driving restrictions

PHOTOBRIEF



Courtesy Photo

Junior Sean Henson is this year's galloping mascot for the Saint Mary's College home football games. He is shown here on his trusty stead Clyde, a nine-year-old part Clydesdale, part quarter horse gelding.

bill "makes it very complicated to try to deal with," said Assemblywoman Lynne Leach.

Due to the lax enforcement of the law, breaking it is not difficult. "The police just can't pull someone over and accuse them of being too young," said junior Andrea Jung.

"The violations are secondary...violations," said Mowrer, meaning that "police could not pull you over unless you violate a different traffic violation." Penalties for violation of the law include community service or a fine of \$35 to \$50.

Although many disagree with the specifics of the bill, the general direction towards teen safety is beneficial. Leach believes that laws should be directed to "train young people on how to drive and reward people who drive well."

The bill was not passed unanimously, though. It went through the assembly several times before being adopted. "Here we are penalizing all teenage drivers. There should only be stiffer penalties for those who do break the law," said Leach, who voted against the bill.

Although the purpose of the bill is to reduce accidents, many students believe that sixteen year olds are responsible enough to handle driving. "Students have enough responsibility to go out with others their own age," said McDonough.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT FEATURE

INSIDE



1996-97:
Year of
Greatness
p. 12

Blueprint

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SUMMER TRIP

Foreign Gates Open to AHS Students

By Anne Kim
Co-Editor-in-Chief

After leaving the Eiffel Tower at midnight, juniors Matt Blits, Charlie Eaton, Justin Fossum, Thomas Wille, Ellen Love, AHS grad George Pack and AP European History teacher Ramsay Thomas hop on the Metro to get back to their hotel. Halfway back however, the Metro breaks down, leaving the group wandering through the streets of Paris. Arriving at a closed park, they hop over the fence and walk on, only to meet a 30-foot entry gate. The students turn back, but realize that Mr. Thomas has scaled the gate and is waiting patiently on the other side, expecting them to do the same. It's two AM.

This event was only one of the many that the group experienced on it's two-week trip to Rome, Paris and London.

Blits approached Thomas earlier in the

year, thinking a trip to Europe would be a nice "reward" for the hard work put into the demanding AP European History course. The interested students needed an adult chaperone however, and to their delight, Thomas willingly offered to go.

"Mr. Thomas...is probably one of the cooler teachers you could've gone with," said Blits. Love agreed. "He didn't seem like a teacher at all," she said. "Sometimes he was like a parent, sometimes he was like a friend." As a mix between the two, Thomas spent a lot of time with the students, playing soccer with them in London and taking them to see Wimbledon.

The trip was scheduled for spring break, but getting together the \$1300 fee on such short notice was difficult. Traveling in the summer had its advantages though, because the stress of studying for the AP test and finals were a thing of the past.

"A fair amount of what we were able to

do (on the trip) was somewhat tied to the curriculum we've had, especially going to the art museums," said Thomas. But "a fair amount of it was just fun."

Although the group traveled on the guided student tour run by Swedish-based Educational Foundation with students from Fremont, they had a lot of free time to go out and absorb the culture.

Sometimes the culture was thrown at them. Although Blits feels "most of the people in Paris, despite the stereotypes, are really nice," Wille was accosted by a rude French woman in a cafe for not being able to speak French. And they had to watch out in Rome. "The drivers there are just crazy," said Wille.

FEATUREBRIEF

Frosh Elections

Freshman Class President Alexandra Ayoub and Vice President Ryan Hafey gained their positions after a run-off election on September 19.

The Freshmen class elected Ami Paetzold for Class Council, Alexis Klein for Social Secretary, Mark Stevens for Treasurer and Jessie Plauere for Secretary during the regular election on September 18.

All elected officers joined the Leadership class on its annual Berkeley Conference field trip the week after elections, where they picked their homecoming theme (animated movies) and color (red). The officers will be responsible for the freshmen float and homecoming activities. Vice President Hafey said "We have lots of activities...to make this a great year for the Freshmen."

-By Vanessa Totten



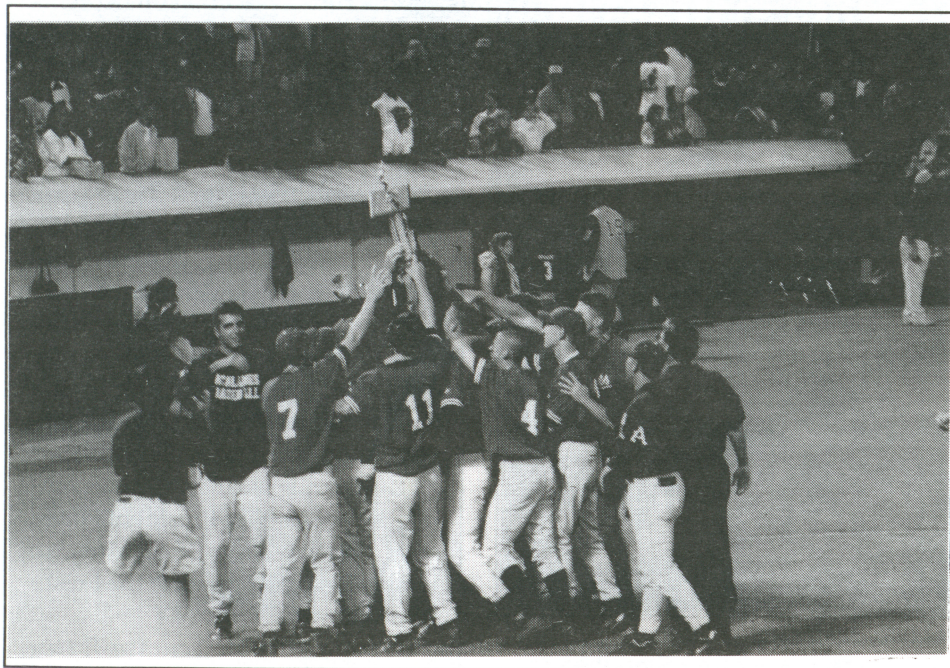
Courtesy Photo

Juniors Thomas Wille, Charlie Eaton, Ellen Love, Matt Blits, and Justin Fossum enjoy England. Fortunately, Mr. Thomas did not attempt to climb Stonehenge.

PHOTO ARCHIVE

Year of Greatness

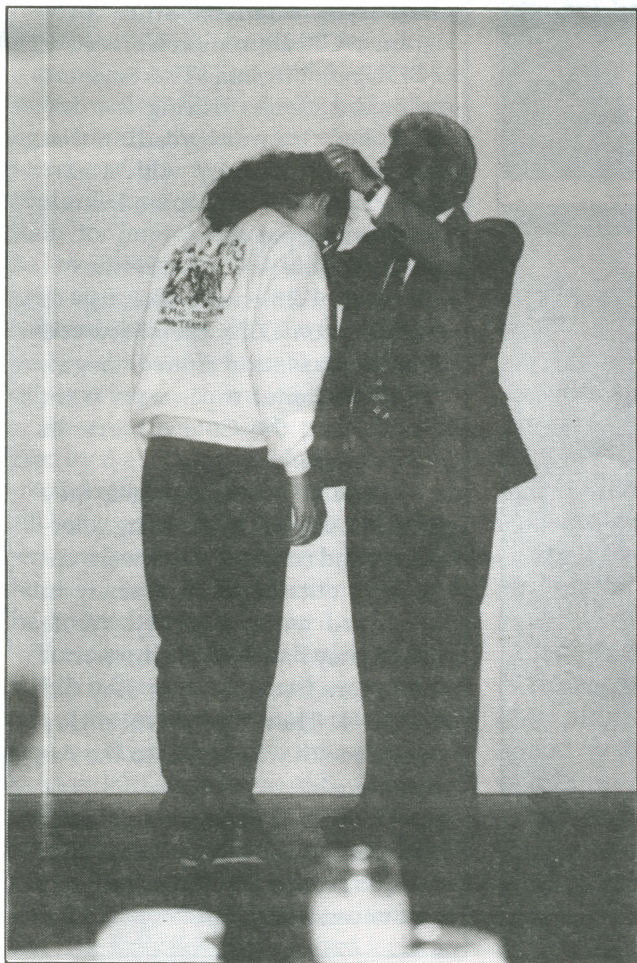
The '96-'97 Lady Dons basketball team took the Division III NorCal championship and went to the state competition in Anaheim and to Disneyland. The team tried to get together twice a week outside of practice, said senior Meredith Galer. "It will never be the same" because last year "we were the underdogs...we were under no pressure."



The Acalanes baseball team was co-champions of the TCAL South Division and won the league tournament. Senior Clint Marty said winning was "unbeliveable." He credits the teams sucess to "playing well as a team." They are shown celebrating after winning the North Coast Section Championships at the Oakland Coliseum late last spring.

PHOTO ARCHIVE

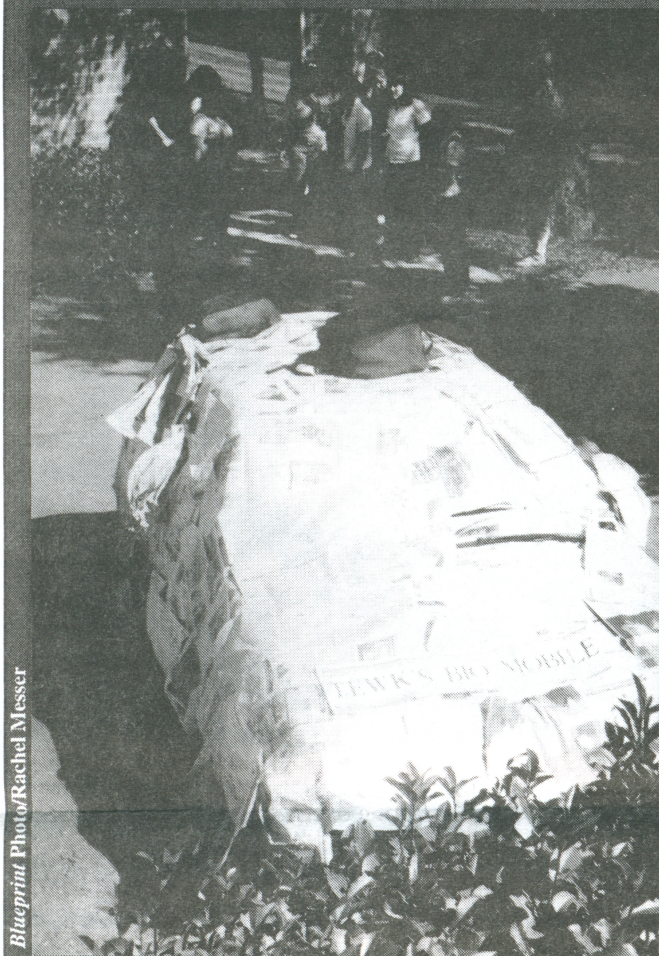
The '96-'97 cross country team sent seven members of their girls varsity team to the state championships, making it the first team in Acalanes history to go to state two years in a row. Shown are members of the girls varsity team, from left, senior Babs Lake, AHS graduate Laura Turner, senior Katie Powers, juniors Sabrina Lee and Petra Kohler, and senior Erin Gillen.



Last year's champion Academic Decathlon team won the county competition and placed second in the state competition at Cal Poly Pomona in March. Despite the serious competition, they never let go of the motto "have fun with it," according to senior Yvonne Choi. "We really enjoyed what we learned."



The orchestra placed first in last April's Mount Hood Orchestra Festival in Oregon. Senior Juliana Athayde said "the group last year really worked well together."

PEOPLE FOCUS**PHOTOBRIEF**

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Underneath the cocoon of newspaper lies Biology teacher Lori Tewksbury's car. The car underwent this remarkable metamorphosis on Friday, September 19 as a practical joke played by a few of Tewksbury's teacher aides, said senior Adrienne Briner, one of the participants. The joke was evidently just for fun. Tewksbury took the surprising transformation of her car in good humor, and proudly displays the "Tewk's Bio Mobile" sign in her room, said Briner.

FEATUREBRIEF

Learning Safari

By Vanessa Totten
Feature Editor

Over the summer, while most teachers were enjoying well deserved time off, French teacher Stan Oberg was learning first hand about the culture of French-speaking Senegal in West Africa. He was chosen by the National Endowment for the Humanities Institute to join their summer program entitled "La Francophonie: a Study of the Literature and Culture Geography of French-Speaking West Africa with a Focus on Senegal."

Oberg and 19 other teachers began their trip with a two and one half week intensive study program at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Virginia. The teachers attended classes during the day and had "so much reading that we couldn't keep up with it all." They also had to prepare lessons and write a paper.

Their time down South was not all work. While on a field trip to Washington D.C., they received the Ambassador from Senegal. They also met diplomats from France and the Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa.

While in Dakar, Senegal, they lived in university housing. Electricity and running water were unreliable outside the university in the third world country. While there, they had many lectures, but had more free time than they did at ODU. They took several day trips, one of which was to the African bush.

Oberg said Senegal was "a developing country experience" that was educationally rewarding but not necessarily "fun."

FEATUREBRIEF

Acalanes Students Merit Awards

By Julie Greene
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Eleven Acalanes seniors received the honorable National Merit Semi-Finalist distinction in the National Merit Scholarship Program in recognition of their performance on the 1996 PSAT.

The 1998 National Merit Semi-finalists are Edward Chandler, Jae-Yong Chung, Brian Gin, Tim Foley, Dave Lake, Jisun Lee, Allison Lewis, Anne Kim, Cybele Tom, Paul Twohey, and Nick Webb.

The honor came as a surprise to some. "I didn't expect (to re-

ceive the recognition), but when I got it, it felt expected," senior Brian Gin.

According to the National Merit Scholarship press release, 15,000 high school seniors were named Semi-Finalists nationwide. These students are eligible to become one of the 14,000 National Merit Scholarship Corporation Finalists who are then eligible to become one of the 7,400 to become Merit Scholars who will be awarded scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$2,000.

Finalists will be named in February.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION

INSIDE

Blueprint wants to hear from you!

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or "snail mail" at

1200 Pleasant Hill Road.

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BRET'S CORNER

Milk Can Still Do a Student Body Good



By Bret Taylor

Co-Editor-in-Chief

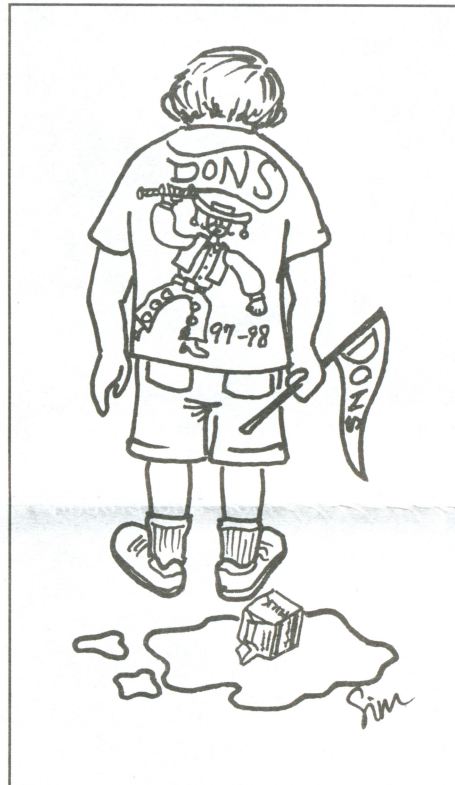
The reasons behind this month's "Welcome Rally" and its degrading milk event are still being debated by both students and faculty;

some claim the event exemplifies the general "moral degeneration" of the student body, while others put the sole blame on the Rally Board itself. Tragically, others find no wrong to blame anyone for, illustrating the selfish indifference of many students and teachers.

However, whatever social trend or group of people incited the emotional degradation at the rally, the real "solutions" to all of the problems alleged cannot be found by blaming anybody; the rally has already happened, and now we must concentrate on what will come of it. The rally offers opportunity for improvement: improvement in the "moral status" of the student body that some say caused the event, improvement in the relationships with the teachers who were so devastatingly embarrassed at the rally, and improvement of future rallies.

However, these positive possibilities offered by the rally, although not ignored or unknown to the Acalanes community, are still being eclipsed by some faculty members' tendency to react irrationally towards the rally board, the Leadership class, and the student body as a whole.

For example, at the Leadership meeting directly subsequent to the rally, many members of the faculty arrived to voice their reactions and comments about the controversy. Meredith Galer and the ASB officers had already prepared a new procedure for approving and planning rallies, including a string of approvals by the leadership class, the leadership advisor, and the administration. The Rally Board apologized for its ac-



tions. Yet almost five teachers ignored this evidence of progress to address their own personal opinions about the causes of the Rally: two claimed it was caused by rallies' inherent uselessness, advocating complete abolishment of them altogether, while one more blamed it on the Rally Board alone. One blamed the leadership class's disorganization, and another lamented the character of student body as a whole.

Their opinions might be true, and all of their allegations are likely to have played some part in it. But the irrational and ill-conceived comments of those faculty members did not help the process of "healing" from the event; they only caused a digression in the form of student/teacher partisanship and increased hostility on both "sides" of the issue. All students and faculty acknowledge the inappropriateness of the

milk-throwing, so throwing blame at students or causing turmoil by trying to abolish the Rally Board completely is unnecessary and unproductive.

In fact, these comments might have stopped the positive effects of the rally from gaining the ground they should have. Immediately following the rally, the Rally Board, the ASB officers, and multiple students, teachers, and administrators rushed to offer their own individual apologies, in the forms of personal visits, flowers, and cards. However, some of the energy expended in fixing the problem before the leadership class that morning started was squandered in the form of anger and defensiveness after the meeting. Those teachers who made the inappropriate comments, although having good intentions, actually hurt the process they were trying to help.

However, good effects can and should still come from the event. New student awareness is apparent through not only the abundance of apologies the six teachers received, but also through the attention the rally has received. Although many faculty members temporarily lost faith in the student body's social awareness directly after the event, the widespread cooperation and positive reaction of the students may have even initiated a new and greater respect between both groups. And, now that most of the initial and irrational reactions of some members of the faculty have subsided, progress towards learning from the event, the real "solution" to the problem, has begun once again.

But for the process to work, the mentioned group of teachers and all others throwing blame must realize that they are in fact not battling the Rally Board, the student body, or any other group of people. The battle is against a social trend in the entire Acalanes community, and the students and the faculty should fight it together.

PRO/CON

Should Deck Changing Be Allowed?

By Chris Kinney
Staff Writer

Sexual harassment, indecent exposure, and "showing off" are just a few of the unfair and unjust claims made against the boys' water polo teams. A girl's parent walks in, sees the boys deck changing, gets horribly offended, and makes a big deal about something completely harmless.

The parent sees a guy with a towel wrapped around his waist, going down to his mid-calf, and the parent is scared about his or her daughter being subjected to such horror. What if the parent had walked in 20 minutes later and seen the boys in their speedos? What then? A speedo is a lot more revealing than a towel around the guy's waist going past his knees. I imagine that the parent would have died of fright. What if the parent complained then? If the parent did, what would the administration do? Would they force the boys' water polo teams to wear swim trunks. That would be like forcing the running backs on the football team to run with big lead weights in their pocket. Or would they just shut down the entire boys' water polo unit?

Another issue brought up was that the boys might be "showing off" when they are changing, and therefore the changing should be done out of sight. Now stop and think about this one. If a guy is trying to "show off", he is not going to do when only his upper body and ankles are showing, which is all that is showing when one deck changes. He is going to do it after he is finished changing, when he is standing there with only a small piece of nylon covering his unmentionables. Also, the boys don't change in front of everyone, they go off to a corner of the deck and change, and don't call attention to themselves.

Sam Lindsey, boys water polo player, said, "We're covered up more with our towels on than in our speedos." The girls can deck change too, if they so desire. I know of girls who deck change for swimming, and they do it with incredible ease. So why doesn't anyone make a fuss when girls deck change? The same things can happen and a boy could be emotionally scarred for life, just like a girl. Yet, while everyone seems so gung-ho for equal rights, the girls also have to have equal downfalls as well.

By Christine Lin
Staff Writer

Deck changing is very common among most swimmers and water polo players. Deck changing is when a person changes from their clothes into their swimsuit on the deck of the pool, covered only by a towel. This feat is most commonly performed by the male athletes.

Deck changing is rude and uncivil to everyone who has to witness it. No one wants to see dirty underwear being pulled from underneath towels or witness guys sticking their hands down their towels or Speedos.

The male athletes that do change on the deck do not even bother to go behind the bleachers or some other place where they cannot be seen. If someone is going to be rude enough to change on the deck, the least they can do is undress where people are not forced to watch them.

Why do taxpayers throw away their money in locker rooms, when locker rooms are not even being used by these athletes? What are they there for then, decoration? Why do guys prefer undressing in public, when the locker room is only 20 feet away?

Deck changing also distracts players of the opposite sex. Let's not forget about the raging hormones which are also involved with this issue. If players are distracted by the players who are changing, they may waste valuable practice time. Coaches do not want to put the athletes in an uncomfortable position, or in a situation in which they might feel uncomfortable. Coaches are also worried about those people who might drop towels on purpose just for "attention." Some players, when changing, joke around and pretend it is funny and amusing, but it is not amusing for those who have to see them change.

Yes, deck changing is a more efficient way of changing, but it also is a much cruder way of changing at the same time. What if someone accidentally dropped their towel? No one wants to see a person's bare butt or any other part of their anatomy. Also, think of how embarrassing it would be for the person whose towel drops.

So is this new rule of not letting players change on the deck better for the athletes? Yes, it is.

This rule not only protects the players and crowds from seeing what should be done in the locker room or at home, but also the dignity of those in the future that could have embarrassed themselves while deck changing. Changing clothes is something that should and needs to be done in private.

ED'S CORNER

Driving Bill Takes Wrong Turn



By Anne Kim
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Mere hours after I had passed my driving test, I was out in the streets in my father's beat-up station wagon, enjoying my new-found freedom with two of my friends.

That freedom I enjoyed a year ago will be doomed to 15-year-olds and their lessers now because the California Legislature has put itself in the driver's seat.

I know, I know. Teenagers will never truly be as free as they would wish. But in an area where a seat belt would suffice, the legislature has pulled out a strait jacket.

Somehow, they've decided that teenagers are causing too many accidents, and it's time to do something about it. Congratulations. It's taken them decades to realize what a problem the astounding number of deaths by car accidents is. Yet, instead of trying to constructively solve this problem, these political air bags have pointed the blame on teenagers, and have wasted a lot of precious time and energy in writing an unenforceable

bill that's running on an empty tank of gas.

Citing research that says the majority of teen car accidents occur at night or when multiple passengers are in the car, they've decided that for the first six months after you get your "driver's license" (if you can call it that), you can't drive from midnight to five am or carry passengers in your car unless you are accompanied by a licensed driver over 25.

If it sounds just like being stuck with a learner's permit for an extra six months, it is. Why then, don't they just extend the age to get a driver's license for another six months? That law would get their point, dull as it is, across far better than some wishy-washy bill full of exceptions and potholes. Do they really think a \$25 fine and a couple of community service hours will stop a brand-new 16-year-old from picking up his friends to go out cruising, which supposedly causes all these accidents the legislature is trying to decrease? No, especially since a policeman has no right whatsoever to pull over a teenager based on his appearance. Essentially, my 13-year old brother can drive around his friends on the highway, and

unless he speeds or drives drunk (which he will not do), nobody can stop him. Keep your hands on the wheel: the legislature was even thoughtful enough to put this in the bill. It "would prohibit a law enforcement officer from stopping a vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether the driver is in violation of the specified restrictions." That's absolutely wonderful. I can just imagine future laws: "It is now illegal for police officers to arrest murderers, even though it is against the law to kill."

One rule in the bill stalls out completely and needs to take a screeching U-turn. The legislature provides that in order for a teenager to receive his license, his parent needs to sign a paper stating that he or she has spent 50 hours behind the wheel with his son or daughter. Realistically though, how hard would it be for a disgruntled parent who is tired of clutching the door handle to sign the paperwork saying he did, in fact, spend 50 hours in the car with his son or daughter?

We are all buckled in our carseats, with the child locks on, watching our legislature weave it's way over the center line of effective lawmaking. It's enough to make you carsick.

SATIRE

September's Shock: Summer's Over

By Teresa Wickham
Staff Writer

It has finally hit. The worst thing since curfew. School. And it hits harder than ever the first few weeks. During summer — during those long, luscious days of summer — we were able to sleep in until noon, forget the meaning of time, and not worry about getting up, what to wear, tests or homework. But now waking up to the phone ringing with a friend wanting you to come over is now an event of the past, and the future looks pretty dim.

The first day of school. The alarm goes off at 7 a.m. You jump up out of bed and race out of your room thinking that it's a fire alarm. Seconds later, after your heart rate begins to slow down, you realize the

ugliness of it all. School has begun. Grudgingly you get dressed and brush your teeth and head out the door to period one. As a zombie your body takes you through the remainder of the school day. At the end of the day, when you get home, you feel your life is going to get worse because it's still not over: It's homework. Parents who make sure you do it.

As the days continue along, you realize that you have to turn on that thing inside your skull; and it's the one that has turned to fat in the last three months. During summer, you had no idea what day it was, because, frankly, it was always a Saturday. Life was a party. Time had no essence at all, and the only thing you had to say to any adult was "Bye Mom! Pick me up at 10!"

But now, it's back to reality. Sitting in the classroom, trying as hard as you possibly can to remember what $2 + 2$ was (still is?) you realize suddenly that you really do need to know what day and time it is. You need to know how much longer you need to think for before you get a 5 minute break. Suddenly, instead of convincing parents that you "need" to stay up for that great program at midnight, you actually try to beat them to bed.

Yes, the lazy, carefree days of summer are over, and we once again embark on another year of learning and preparing for our futures, while simultaneously trying to work out the fat in between our skulls. Well, that's what my parents try to tell me, but I think they just want to get me out of the house.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS**STUDENT LETTER****A Challenge to the Students****Dear Editors:**

Most people say that the best part of life is being in a relationship. Acalanes is a good place to see that. If you look around campus on a normal day of school, or at any school activity, you will see students enjoying each others' company.

However from what I see, Acalanes has a growing problem. It seems as though the majority of the student body seems only to be interested in how people look on the outside, rather than on the inside. There are people at Acalanes who may not be attractive on the outside, but have wonderful qualities on the inside. Unfortunately, some people would rather assume what those people are like, rather than take the time to get to know them. Acalanes may not want to admit this, but it is there. Everyone has done it at one time or another.

I want to end this statement with a question and a challenge for everyone. First the question. What makes it okay to be rude to someone who doesn't meet your expectations as far as looks, especially when you don't know the person? My challenge to each and every one of you is simple. Go to that one person who you think is less perfect on the outside. Get to know them by what is on the inside rather than what they look like, and what you might think they are like. I promise each and every one of you that if you do, you will make the person feel a lot better, and deep down in your heart, you will feel better and quite possibly have a great friend.

- Vincent*

**Because of the highly personal nature of this letter, the author has used a pseudonym instead of his real name.*

SCHOOL ADVERTISEMENT**The Student Directories Are Here!**

The AHS Student Directories are in the mail if not already in the homes. Many thanks to Mr. Steve Gale and his graphic art students who printed the entire 1400+ books. We can't thank Mr. Gale enough for spending so much of his cherished free time on this enormous project.

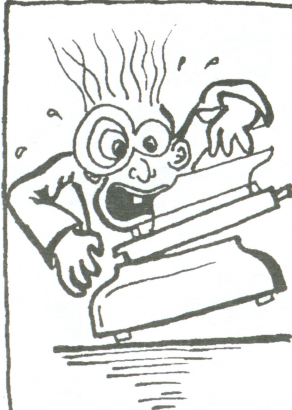
The wonderful and clever cover design is the artwork of student, Tiffany Chin. What a creative design!

Sincerely,

The Student Directory Committee

**Note: the Directories are mailed to all Parent Club members. But they will also be available for purchase at the Don's Store in November.*

We wanna hear from YOU!



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A CALANES BLUEPRINT ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE



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MOVIE FORUM

Hollywood Not So Hot This Summer

Summer Box Office sales barely reach non-summer levels

By Bret Taylor
Co-Editor-In-Chief

The summer is usually film-industry's time to release its biggest hits and earn the most bucks, but this summer, out of laziness or simply a lack of creativity, was a summer of flops. Out of the 100s of Hollywood films released this summer, only nine made it to this year's "Top-25" list at the Box Office, a list only containing movies released since January.

Here are a few of the top summer films lucky enough to find a place on the list, in order of their respective Box Office ratings:

Men In Black (Columbia)

Domestic Sales:
\$230.5 million

To the industry's credit, it did manage to steal the #1 spot from *Jurassic Park: The*

Lost World this summer. And it did so with a worthy movie: *Men In Black*.

In *MiB*, rapper/actor Will Smith joins veteran Tommy Lee Jones to make a hilarious and creative comedy. In both acting and plot, the film combines intelligent satire with pure insanity a refreshing combination that almost every comedy this year lacked.

Will Smith proves himself worthy to act next to anybody, even Tommy Lee Jones. Both are perfect for their parts, throwing in subtle and memorable mannerisms and to give their characters genuine and likable personalities. The film's only flaw is its brevity, but, as anyone who saw *Contact* will testify, briefness is a quality many directors have yet to master.



Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith fight aliens in *Men in Black*.

However, the ending almost ruins the rest of the movie. The anti-climax is based on cheesy romance and reunion, complimented by one of the film's rare instances of bad acting, leaving a sour taste in the viewer's mouth.

Contact (Warner Brothers)

Domestic Sales:
\$92.2 million

How *Contact* managed to steal spot #10 of the Box Office's Top-10 list is beyond anyone

who has actually seen the film; a confused jumble of special effects, melodrama, and political nonsense, the movie represents the low-point in this summer's releases.

Jodie Foster, brilliant in previous roles like *Silence of the Lambs*, loses her subtle charm in *Contact* and adopts a strained, painful style for her character Eleanor Arroway. Her facial expression never changes: a crooked frown, intended to express the character's deeply-ingrained personal pain. Instead, it just makes the audience uncomfortable and, eventually, downright annoyed, with her overly emotional character.

The film is also an hour too long. Director Robert Zemeckis tries to do too much by combining Arroway's emotional evolution, the discovery of an alien communication device, and the controversies that arise from the discovery. To combine all of these he adds an hour of film time—an hour of boredom and confusion.

Contact needs to drop its overdrawn politics and corny emotional antics before it can do any justice to the advertising it produced, and that would only be a step in the right direction.

Face/Off (Paramount)

Domestic Sales:
\$108.7 million

Face/Off, although only placing 7th at the Box Office, was one of

the next most popular films of the summer. Directed by Action-guru John Woo and starring Hollywood's top-selling Nicolas Cage and John Travolta, the film sets a new precedent for action films.

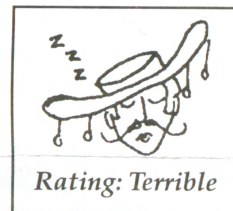
Woo uses his mastered "as-many-bullets-as-possible" technique and successfully combines it with the acting abilities of Cage and Travolta. The result is an entertaining blend of action, comedy, and even romance.



Rating: Good



Rating: Good



Rating: Terrible

LOCAL CONCERT

The Cats Jazz It Up at Ace of Clubs

By Charlie Eaton

Staff Writer

Sure, you might have seen Snoop Dog this summer. You may have marveled at Maynard James Keenan's vocals at Lollapalooza. But you missed out if you weren't one of the many who listened in awe as the Boogaloo Cats put them both to shame with a performance of a lifetime in front of a crowd the size of our swelling freshmen class.

Students from Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte assembled at the Lafayette Town Hall on the first weekend of the '97-'98 school year. The Cats' performance drew the largest crowd of all the "Ace of Club" events sponsored by the Lafayette Youth Commission, with 150 students attending the event.

The Cats, known for their incredible live performances, far exceeded any of their past shows, performing six new songs with saxophonist Forest Day, a senior at Acalanes, wielding a brand new soprano sax.

Forrest, having acquired the new soprano sax only three days before the concert, integrated the new instrument into the band's music with surprising continuity. In fact, the Cats sounded more unified than ever before. "Tonight... we became one, one piece of music, not just 5 guys playing in the same key," said guitarist, junior Terrel Leidstrand.

The five talented musicians Liedstrand spoke of include himself, Day, guitarist, senior Meric Long, drummer, junior Nolan Fisher, and basist Kevin Gundle, a senior at Los Lomas.

When these skilled artists fell into sync at the the Town Hall it felt like it was everyone's birthday. Fans listened to a side of the Cats they'd never heard before. The Cats, who normally confine themselves to a "happy, funky" sort of sound, revealed an aggressive energy-charged side of themselves with



Courtesy Photo

Boogaloo Cats Saxophonist Forrest Day solos in the band's first performance at Lafayette Town Hall theater. The concert attracted over 150 Acalanes students.

new songs like "Evil." "The music was a lot more personal," said Day.

And it's that personal aspect of the Cats' music that sets them apart from other local bands. While many local bands model their sound after trendy alternative rock bands with indistinct chords and hoarse voices, the Cats have produced a sound all their own.

The sea of students, who flooded the tiny Town Hall Theater to watch the Cats strut their stuff, surprised the Cats because their sound is so atypical. "I'm surprised so many people dig the music even though we've got a jazz influence in our music and it's not what people normally listen to," said Day.

Which isn't to say that the plethora of students present were merely listening. The Cats kept the audience on their feet and dancing for the duration of the show, unlike the performance that night by Hissy Fit when most listeners remained in their chairs bobbing their heads as though they were nodding in agree-

ment with some profound statement by the vocalist. "It was very energetic. I don't know enough about music to say anything about the skill. But they had me dancing the whole time," said junior Ellen Love about the Cats performance.

In addition to the new music, the Cats revamped several of their old songs including "Round," the first song the Cats wrote together. The Cats first dazzled Acalanes students when they played "Round" at the winter sports rally last year.

The Cats planned to play a show in the quad at lunch shortly after their performance at the Town Hall. Unfortunately, because of the controversy surrounding the first rally (*see related story, p.4*), Acalanes administrator, Mr. Paul Mack, prohibited the Cats from blessing students with those melodic and funky grooves that we've all come to know and love.

Nevertheless, the Cats encourage fans not to worry as they are planning a performance like no other for the Christmas season.

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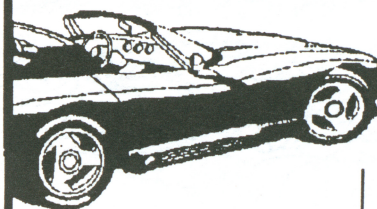
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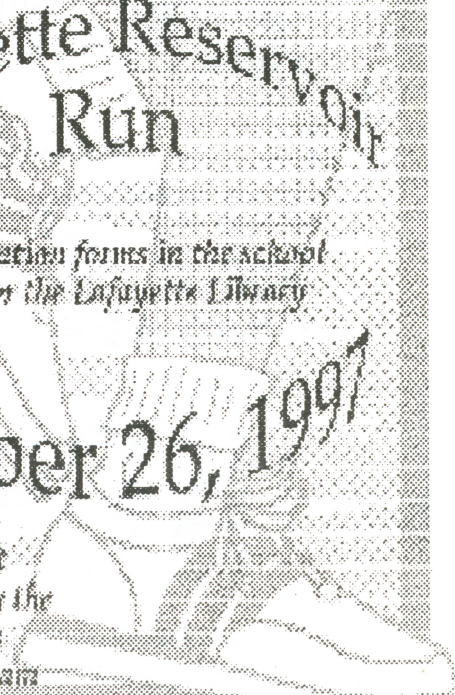
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October 26, 1997

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Breakfast
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HOMECOMING

Homecoming '97

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homecoming Kick-off Rally • Carnival • Powderpuff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crazy Dress-Up Day • Class Relay Competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme Dress-Up Day • Lip Sync Competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Shirt Day • Class Skits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue & White Day • BBQ in the Quad • Parade • Football Game

By Julie Greene
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It's a night at the movies full of edge-of-your seats action/adventure, out of this world science fiction, lonely western tales and animated classics. So sit back with your popcorn and enjoy a week at the cinema that will have critics running wild.

The cameras will start rolling with the Homecoming Kick-Off Rally held **Monday**, October 10. Following the rally there will be the lunchtime mini-carnival in the quad. Later on that evening the classes will go up against each other in an exciting show of brawn at Powderpuff that will leave you speechless.

Tuesday, October 14, Crazy Dress-up Day, will usher in the action-packed Class Relay Competition at lunch.

Wednesday, October 15, students will get their chance to fasten their bull whips, fix their space-suits and strut their class spirit on Theme Dress-Up Day. The annual Lip Sync Contest will conclude the day's activities at lunch.

Thursday, October 16, is Class Shirt Day. Class posters will be on display as the Acalanes Student Body takes control of the director's chair and preform class skits.

The film shoot will begin to wrap up on **Friday**, October 17 with Blue and White Day. Acalanes' Football Team will take center stage at the football rally at lunch for the Homecoming Game against Granada that night at 7:30. A BBQ and live music will also be featured in the quad. After school the class floats will parade down Mt. Diablo Blvd. in the third annual Acalanes Homecoming parade.

Saturday night will mark the end of the festivities with the Homecoming Dance as the last act. Tickets are

four dollars with an Acalanes Student Body Card, six dollars without.

Those extra cans of chili lying in the pantry will provide ammunition for the battle between the classes. Throughout the week Acalanes will be hosting a canned food drive with all of the proceeds to be donated to the Contra Costa Food Bank. The class donating the most cans will earn bonus spirit points.

But remember: any person or group caught throwing eggs will be reprimanded by the administration and will lose spirit points for their class.

Visit Blueprint's new webpage at:
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A CALANES BLUEPRINT SPORTS

INSIDE



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Sweeps
Foothill
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Blueprint

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FOOTBALL

Dons Rise to Higher Plane in New Season

By Ben Conley
Sports Editor

The Acalanes Dons football team should find another saying for the back of their T's. Something like "Good things come to those who wait," since the Dons have waited a long time for a winning season. Or they could even put "Do unto others as others would have done unto you" since for the past 9 years the Dons have been picked on, but now are making other teams pay the price.

Yes, Acalanes football has been winning, however not only have they been "winning", they have been destroying. They've unleashed total and utter punishment on opposing teams that have ventured into the Don Dome. It seems that Acalanes football is taking revenge for what has happened to them in the past.

Acalanes has turned the page this year by outscoring their opponents 108-28. The last blowout coming against St. Lawrence in which the Dons were extremely rude hosts, shutting out the Celtics 41 to 0 sending St. Lawrence on a long bus ride back to San Jose. Acalanes running back Mark Verlatti made the Celtics defense look like swiss cheese, shooting through the holes for 180 yards on 27 carries. If you think the Celtics air defense faired any better, think again, as the Celtic secondary was no match for senior wide receiver Eric Andersen who hauled in five catches for 81 yards and one touchdown. Andersen added another touchdown on a 45 yard punt return. The Dons piled up 433 yards of offense.

The Dons have a change of attitude this year compared to last year, and it has shown on the field. "Practices are more efficient and the coaches are more orga-



Senior tailback Mark Verlatti breaks away for big yardage in a recent game against Saint Lawrence. The Dons won the game 41 to 0.

nized. Plus our team chemistry has improved since last year," said Andersen.

The first of two Dons' blowouts this season came in a 48-14 rout of Mt. Diablo. Verlatti again had a standout night rushing for 304 yards and two touchdowns. Junior quarterback Dave Iverson looked comfortable in the pocket, completing seven of eight passes for 153 yards. Four of those balls were caught by Andersen who ended up with 106 yards and two touchdowns. "Dave has really stepped up these past three games, he's settled down a lot," said Andersen.

The Dons defense also stepped up big shutting down Mt. Diablo's big play maker, running back Antwion Thompson, holding him and the rest of Mt. Diablo's backfield to 61 yards. The Dons

secondary had just as good a night, only giving up 11 yards to the Devils.

The Dons came back after an opening loss to Hayward by beating Las Lomas for the first time in 12 years. The win started a three game winning streak. Again Verlatti was a main contributor scoring all of his teams points except for a safety in the Dons 19-14 win over the Knights. Verlatti rushed for 148 yards on 29 carries, scored two touchdowns, and kicked a 24 yard field goal. The Knights seemed to have one more chance to score near the goal line with three seconds left on the clock but an illegal spiking procedure ran the clock out and cost them the game. Andersen had five catches for 72 yards. A highlight of the game was a 56 yard reception by senior tight end Ali Katoozian.

SIDELINES

A Look at the Pros

By Ben Conley
Sports Editor

Hopping onto "Top Gun", the "Demon" or the "Vortex" at Great America would not be unlike the way a hardcore Forty-niner fan has felt throughout the '97-'98 football season. Since the 80's no one in San Francisco thought that the Niners would ever relinquish their reputation for being playoff contenders every year. As the decade passed and names like Young, Watters, and Floyd replaced those of Montana, Craig and Rathman, the myth never died that the Niners would always be a dynasty.

This is where the roller coaster ride begins however. What was to be a comeback year after last year's disappointment, things took a turn for the worst in the Forty Niner's opening game of the '97 season. Not only did the Niners lose their game to the Buccaneers, but Steve Young suffered his third concussion in 10 months and had to be taken out of the game. Questions arose about whether or not Young should retire. Injuries have always plagued Young, and the Niners always seem to be picking up for his absence. Young has had to miss parts of 17 of his last 36 games since 1995. His hospital receipts include three concussions, three broken ribs, a shoulder injury and one groin injury. A couple more injuries and you could turn his bill into a Christmas carol.

Yeah, Young always gets hurt and he always comes back, but who ever thought the seemingly immortal god of receivers himself would go down. Who ever thought the man who has rewritten record books and rewritten them again would ever, ever get hurt. Reality struck hard that Sunday when Jerry Rice suffered a severe injury to his left knee against the Bucs, tearing his anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament as well as his posterior capsule. Doctors say that Rice is out for the season but the mortal Rice says he'll be ready for the post-

season. Not in anyone's wildest nightmare would they think that Rice would or could go down. Come on, if Rice wore a pink uniform he could easily be mistaken for the Energizer Bunny, beating on the opposing cornerbacks like his own drum. Well, some say there is a first time for everything, but no one thought there could be a first injury to Rice.

But hold everything, maybe the Niners aren't thinking about next year yet. The team that was predicted to doom for the '97 season is now 4-1 having won their last four in a row. It's true that three of those games were puffballs, but with a commanding 34-21 pounding of the Carolina Panthers in front of the whole world on Monday Night Football, the Forty Niners resurrected themselves as one of the premier teams in the league. Everyone was saying that the Niners were headed for the cellar, everyone except young Young and the San Francisco Forty Niners. Looking like the Niners of old, with the exception of Rice, they went to the air early and held down the fort with a previously nonexistent running game. Unlike the Niners of old they consumed 9 minutes, 56 seconds of the fourth quarter with a 15 play, 81 yard drive including just one pass. With the loss of Rice, San Francisco has had to form a new dimension to their offense, the running game which consist of fullbacks William Floyd and Terry Kirby and of course our man Garrison Hearst. Hearst ran for 141 yards and scored a touchdown.

So ends the roller coaster for now, since the Niners had a bye this weekend, but each coming Sunday will provide a test for San Francisco to shake its underdog reputation. So what if each coming weekend feels like approaching the top of the "Vortex" and looking straight down--from the looks of Monday night, this is a ride worth paying for.

SUMMER SWIMMING

County Meet

By Charlie Eaton
Staff Writer

The best swimmers from all over Contra Costa County assembled at Acalanes on Saturday August 23 offering Acalanes graduate Mike Dover the perfect opportunity to say good-bye in style. Like an ocean tide carrying a surfer out to sea, Dover swept away the first place title in the 15-18 100 yard free-style while a wave of new Acalanes swimmers arrived in full force.

Dover particularly enjoyed his departure because he smoked arch-rival Andrew Stoddard by four tenths of a second. "I just went all out," said Dover who also led his free relay and medley relay teams to victory.

Acalanes veteran swimmer Paul Crawford followed Dover's lead with an easy victory in the 15-18 100 yard. Crawford made the backstroke look like his first mode of transportation, laying down an incredible time of 55.72. "I was seeded second, but came out fast and led the whole way, I felt pretty strong," said Crawford.

Not about to blemish the reputation of the lady Dons, sophomore Sonia Lamel touched the wall second in the 15-18 100 yard breast-stroke. Lamel, swimming for LMYA, clocked in with a time of 1:11.58. Lamel also placed fourth in the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:04.80.

Junior Becky Straw was on Lamel's heels making the finals for the 15-18 100 yard breaststroke and coming in fifth in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 1:02.97.

Incoming freshman Robin Siegfried, swimming for Rancho Colorados, finished fifth in the 13-14 50 yard free-style just behind sophomore Grace Woods. Fatigue from swimming in the semi-finals for the individual medley (IM) hindered Siegfried's performance but she made up time with a quick turn after the first 25.

James Arnold also did the freshmen boys justice by finishing fifth in the 13-14 50 yard breaststroke. "I had too much height on my dive so I was under water for longer than I should have been," said Arnold.

Both Arnold and Siegfried plan to swim for Acalanes. Siegfried hopes to swim the 200 yard IM and the 100 yard or 200 yard free-style. Arnold expects to swim the 100 yard breast stroke and the 50 yard free-style.

GIRLS WATERPOLO

Acalanes Tidal Wave Wipes Out Benicia

Lack of Unity May Cause Future Problems for Girls Waterpolo

By Charlie Eaton
Staff Writer

The Acalanes girls' water polo team dug a grave and provided a eulogy for Benicia High School's inexperienced squad before burying the team with a score of 14-3.

The Dons used increased team familiarity, lacking in the naval battle against Campo the previous week, to dominate Benicia from start to finish. "We were playing more as a team... we started to put everything together," said returning player, junior Heather Stretch.

The disunity among the Dons, remedied in the Benicia game, was a heavy burden against Campo. Nevertheless, the Acalanes team, whose ranks are half-filled by new players, held their own against the strong Campolindo team losing by a narrow margin of 7-5.

Before the Dons' game against

Campo, senior Blaire Douglas referred to this season as a "building year" and expressed concern about the departure of last year's starting goalie Carrie Malone, hole set Mandy Sammann, hole defender Kelly Collins, and driver Sara Stretch.

However, despite a lack of continuity, several new players have stepped in to fill the void left by the departure of last year's senior class. "We have a lot of individual talent," said junior Michelle Migliore, "we're stronger and faster than most teams."

Sophomore Sonia Lamel has filled the void left by Sara Stretch's departure and has led the Dons' offensive with three goals against Campo and another against Benicia. "Sonia has a really good arm from the outside, she's really accurate," said Heather Stretch.

Meanwhile, sophomore Grace Woods, hailed as one of the strongest goalies in the league, has commanded the Dons' defense with an authority foreign to past Acalanes' teams.

"We have a lot of individual talent... We're stronger and faster than most teams."

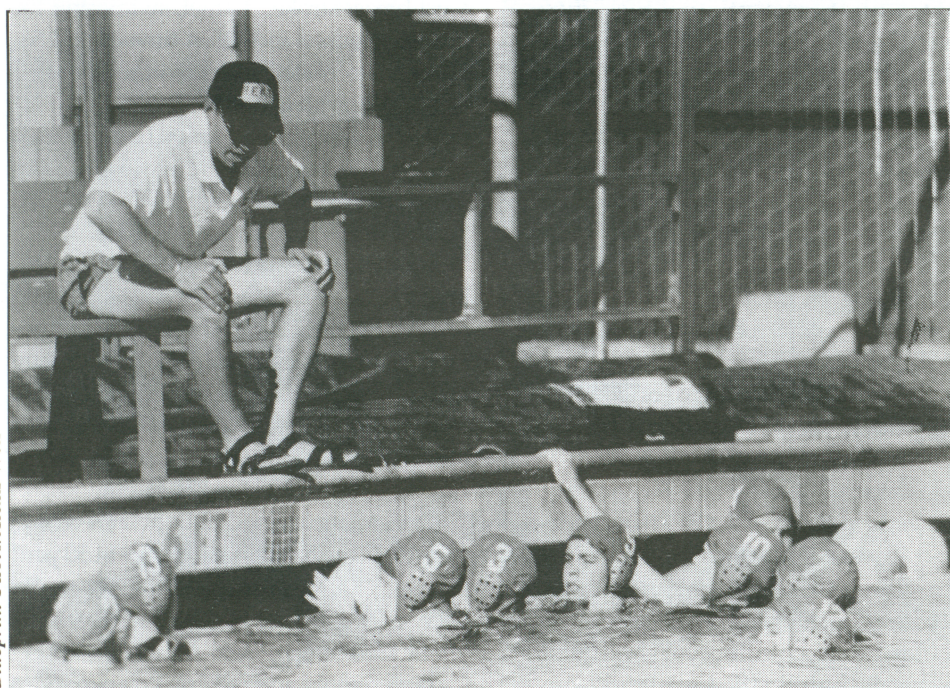
-Michelle Migliore

Woods collected twenty saves in the team's loss against Campo and held Benicia to only three goals.

A lack of summer training, due to the coaching change this season, has contributed greatly to the lack of unity between players. The Dons' loss against Campo was the first time the Acalanes squad has played in a game together, while Campolindo had played together since the beginning of summer. The players' communication skills need improvement only brought by more time playing together.

Now that McAlister has been established as the Acalanes coach, he brings a strong knowledge of the game and raw teaching ability to the program. Stretch and Migliore praised McAlister for bringing fundamental skills to the Dons absent in last year's program.

With improved unity Acalanes could legitimately contend for second with Campolindo and Los Lomas, but don't expect the Acalanes team to overthrow the well-established Miramonte dynasty. The Miramonte program, which brought home the North Coast Championship the past two years, has traditionally throttled Acalanes in the past and will most likely do so again this year.



First year coach Mike McAlister instructs his squad in a recent Lady Dons' game. McAlister also played his waterpolo days at Acalanes and has returned in his new role as head coach.

SOCCER

Soccer Kicks-Off Disappointing Start

By Andy Fitzgerald
Staff Writer

The Acalanes soccer team fell to a record of 2-5-1 after losing to Concord High 1-0.

The Dons, coming off a win against defending champion Benicia, played an uninspiring game against the Minutemen. The ball was mostly kept at midfield due to good defense by both teams. In the middle of the second half the Minutemen got their chance on a breakaway, shooting the ball into the lower left corner of the Dons' goal giving them the only goal of the game. Senior goalie Dan Chamberlain collected two saves.

The Dons looked like an entirely different squad in their victory against Benicia. The Acalanes front line rattled off 14 shots. Thus, the Dons scored early in the first half with junior forward Justin Fossum and sophomore Bret Boudreaux giving Acalanes a 2-0 lead going into the half. Acalanes added to their lead when junior midfielder Sean Parks took advantage of a poor goal kick by Benicia's keeper, taking a long shot and putting it into the back of the net. Meanwhile, goalie Mark Philpot kept the Benicia offense at bay, remaining unscored on for the season.

The Acalanes Dons varsity soccer team got off to a good start, then hit the skids. After a decisive tie with last year's division champs, the Miramonte Matadors, the Dons team suffered two difficult losses. Losing to Campolindo after the Cougars broke open a quick 1-0 lead in the first minute, after a free-kick by Campo bounced off the cross-bar and was quickly put back in. A second goal later in the first half proved enough to defeat the Dons 2-0. The Dons next game was against Alhambra, who has the best record in the league right now. Although losing 3-0, the Dons put out a good effort.

The Dons roster has been completely redone due to graduation losses and many newcomers. Returning with the Dons varsity for his second year is coach Ed Blengino. Despite losing eight seniors last year and the unfortunate, season ending injury of sophomore Roger Curtis, the Dons offense is led by juniors Justin Fossum and Sean Parks, and a tight defense led by senior Dan Chamberlain, and juniors David Miskie, Mark Philpot and C.J. Duffaut. Key newcomers include freshman Rusty Phillips, and sophomores Grant Woods and Paul Gillen.

Due to its lack of shooting, and subsequent lack of offensive productivity, the Acalanes squad has been forced to fall back on its defense. Though strong, the Acalanes defense has proved unable to manage this task.



Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Senior midfielder Jack Doherty turns upfield and looks for an open teammate.

BOYS WATERPOLO

Boy's Waterpolo Makes Waves

By Dave Drevno
Business Manager

The Acalanes boy's varsity waterpolo team extended their record to nine and three, with a 20-4 trouncing of Benicia. Benicia proved not to be a threat when, within two minutes, the Dons had racked up a 4-0 lead. The rest of the game was a free-for-all, as thirteen Dons scored.

Senior goalie Ethan Berger, had three saves, senior Matt Streumpf recorded two, while senior Ben Conley contributed one.

However, the Dons did not run into the same sort of luck against Miramonte, in the Acalanes Invitational. The Dons were beaten by Miramonte, 11-6 in the championship game. Miramonte jumped

out to a 2-0 lead, shutting the Dons out in the first quarter. The score was 5-1 at the half, however the Dons' nemesis, the third quarter, proved once again, to be their downfall. Using a strong counter attack, Miramonte scored four unanswered goals. "The first quarter, we played them up and down, but we couldn't get into our offense. Then in the third quarter, we started to get a little fatigued, and they started blowing us out," said Streumpf. Senior hole set Rich Andron and senior driver Will Howekamp, led the Dons with two goals a piece. Berger recorded nine saves.

"It's been a successful year, and we're a lot better at this point than we were last year," said Streumpf.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Cross-Country Tramples Foothill

By Dan Chamberlain
Staff Writer

A young squad of Acalanes cross country runners wove through a course that traversed city streets and forced runners through small gates, when the varsity Dons defeated the Foothill Falcons in an Oct. 1 meet at Foothill.

The squad overcame inexperience in its victory over Foothill. "[The team] was basically an all senior team last year," said coach, Manny Meyers. Consequently, '97 Dons are composed of very few returning Varsity members. Nevertheless, the Dons emerged victorious by a score of 31 to 26.

The Dons were led by sophomore Taylor Arnold and junior Chris Vetek who finished fourth and fifth overall, with times of 17:38 and 17:40 respectively on the 3.1 mile course. Following Arnold and Vetek was sophomore Alex Baca (6th, 18:41), freshman Steve Vetek (8th, 18:43), sophomore Darryl Wong (10th, 18:53).

The Acalanes Women's team is anchored by several seniors. These seasoned veterans are joined by several talented newcomers. At Foothill the Dons won by a score of 20 to 43. They were lead by senior Carrie Laird finishing second overall with a time of 19:40 and sophomore Nikala Prowznik who took third with a time of 19:50. Following Laird and Prowznik were senior Erin Gillian (4th, 19:56), senior Katie Powers (5th, 19:57), and sophomore Petra Kohler (6th, 20:02).

The league title is up for grabs this year. Campolindo, Foothill and Granada each have strong teams, and meanwhile the Dons look impressive at all levels, and are in contention for the league title. However, no team in the league has a clear-cut advantage. "I think that your guess is as good as mine," said Meyers about the probable outcome of this season.



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Sophomore Nikala Prowznik and senior Lisa Bostjanick race to the finish line against Foothill in the Don's league opener.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Tennis Serves Early Wins

By Chris Vetek
Staff Writer

Lofting the ball lightly above her, junior Lauren Keyes whacked her racket forward and sent the ball spinning over to her Benicia adversary. Surprised by Keyes' power, senior Becky Choi barely reacted in time, sending an awkward lob far behind the baseline. Choi's mishit sealed her loss to Keyes, Acalanes' substitute number one singles player, who replaced a resting Ashley O'Neill, the Dons' resting sophomore sensation.

Keyes' 6-4, 6-2 victory was expected in her home match against a young Benicia team, as the Dons cruised to victory, winning 8-1, on Thursday, October 2.

"I started out with a rough season, but today was a good day," said Keyes.

Choi, the only returning Benicia veteran, said this year has been a challenge.

"I came into the match feeling like I would try my best," said Choi. "It's been a tough season, though," she said, referring to her inexperienced team.

Both getting "bagels", or shutouts, against their respective opponents, Acalanes' number one doubles duo, seniors Robin Zeman and Beia Spiller, and number two singles player, senior Esther Leong, found no challenge in their opponents, as they both won 6-0, 6-0.

Acalanes' numbers three and four singles, Brianne Bryne and Megan Briggs, won their respective matches 7-5, 6-4, and 6-0, 6-0.

Saying they did what they could, Benicia's coach said that they "worked on fundamentals" the prior day to prepare. "We graduated nine seniors last year. What can you do?"

Acalanes' coach Judy Corliss is pleased with her team's performance.

"We returned all of our stars, including Ashley, and the only barrier now is the rest of the season," said Corliss.

The Dons now stand at 4-3 in the South division, holding onto fourth place, while Benicia fell to 1-6, holding last place in the North division.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball Recovers from Slow Start

Win Against the Dublin Gaels Shows Signs of Improvement

By Chris Vetek
Staff Writer

It has been a disappointing start in league play for an optimistic Acalanes girls volleyball team, but nevertheless the Dons showed improvement after consecutive losses, spiking the Dublin Gaels in four games on Thursday, September 25. Acalanes won 15-8, 8-15, 15-7, 15-6, placing them at 6-5 overall and 1-2 in the league.

Senior hitter Laura Cox led the offensive attack with seven kills and four aces, while senior hitter Amy Hawk contributed five kills and six aces.

"It was very important for us to win... we want to get to North Coast, let's put it that way," said Hawk.

Junior transfer student Rachel Rosemeyer and junior Julie Hunt provided even more depth up front, sending six kills each past the Gael defense.

"It was a big improvement on our first two games," said Rosemeyer.

Senior setter Alicia Young shined in her role in the 5-1 offense, recording 7 service points and 24 assists.

"Alicia did a heck of a job tonight," said coach Jim Changaris.

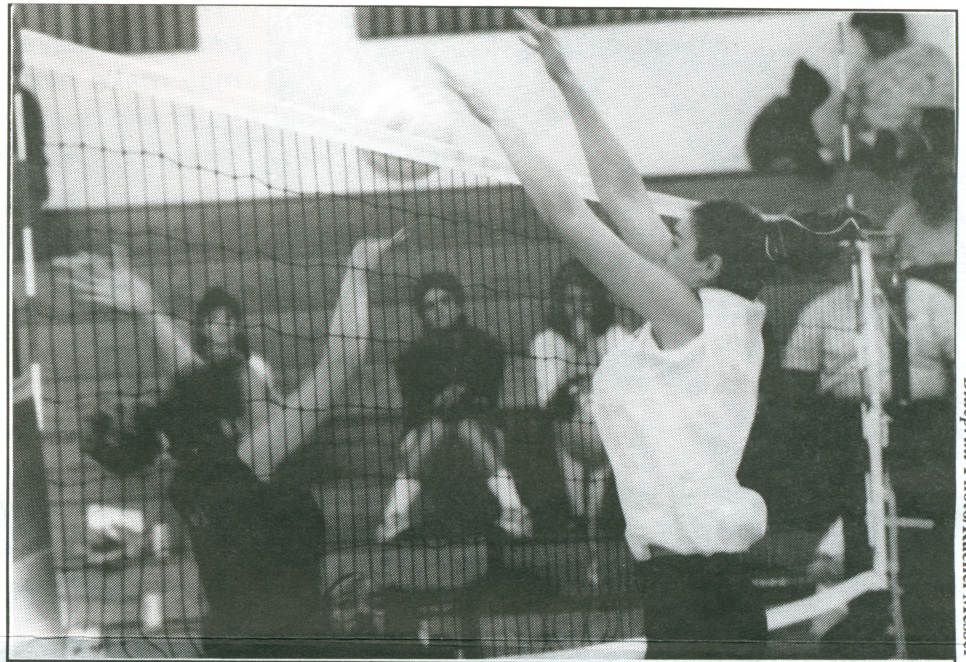
It was more than individual performance that won this match, however.

"The team won it. We worked well as a team," said Young.

The Dons showed control and a visible thirst for victory in the first game, with seemingly perfect passing on every play.

"We worked in practice to control the passing, to serve with accuracy, and to focus," Changaris said. "Sometimes the basic drills just don't do enough."

The only spark that the Gaels showed was in the second game, when Acalanes seemed to lose its



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Junior middle blocker Julie Hunt rejects an offering from an opposing player in the Dons' match against the Dublin Gaels. The Dons won the match, placing them with a record of 1-2 in the league.

poise.

"I think we didn't serve as tough," said Changaris. "We made a few adjustments yesterday in practice, though, with hitting."

The moment of truth came in the critical third game of the match, with the Dons and the Gaels all tied up at 5-5. After a sideout, Hawk received the set by Young on the left wing, and she placed a monster kill with precision accuracy between two bewildered Gael back-liners. From this moment on, Acalanes kept the momentum flowing and never looked back.

The Dons' weakest point was its defense, but Gael passing errors and failed conversions provided enough sideouts to give the pumped Dons offense control.

In their second league match, Acalanes lost big to North Coast Section champions Campolindo on

the Cougar floor, 9-15, 6-15, 10-15, on Tuesday, September 24.

In their league debut at home against Miramonte, the Dons wilted against the powerhouse Mators, losing in straight sets, 5-15, 7-15, 3-15.

The Mats put on a show of domination before approximately 75 Acalanes and Miramonte spectators, as the tentative Dons looked nervous in nearly every facet of its offense, using Changaris's 6-2 formation.

When Dublin visited Acalanes a week later the Dons showed that they had the same dominance that Miramonte had showcased for them.

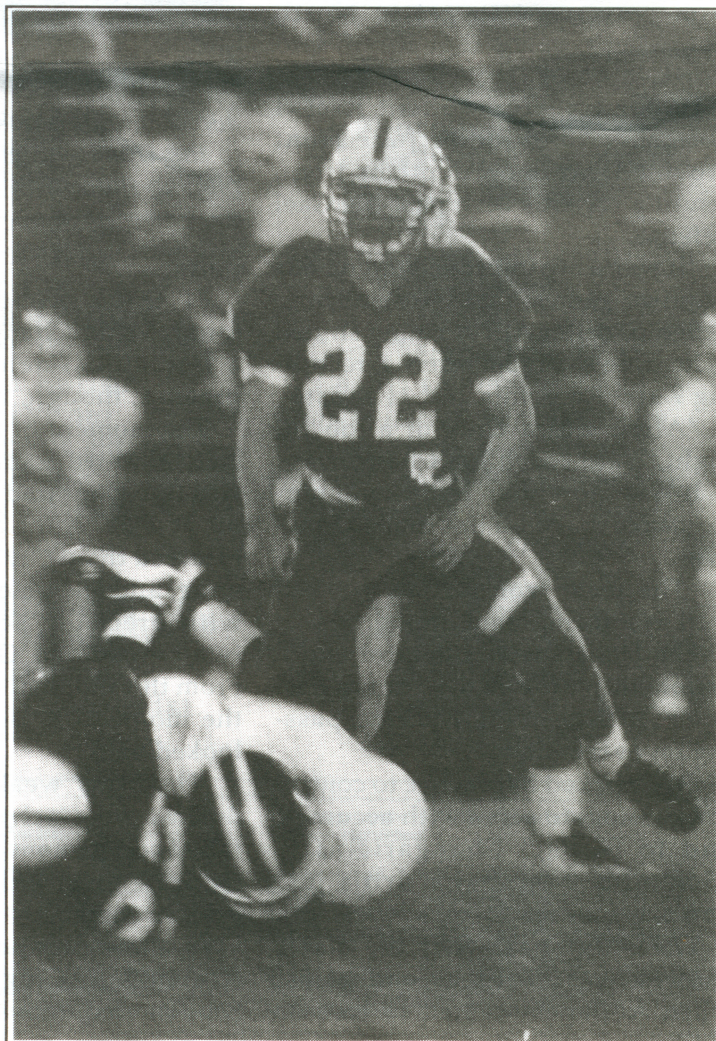
"We proved ourselves tonight," said Rosemeyer. "We can play with teams like Campolindo and Miramonte."

We'll see about that.

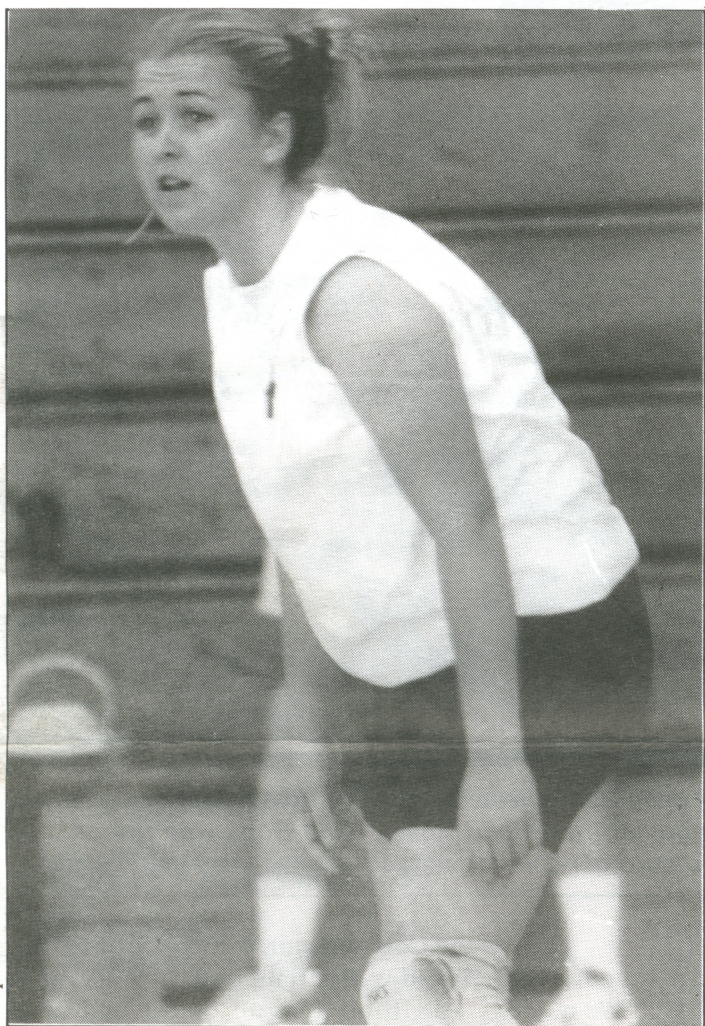
ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Eric Andersen

When quarterback Dave Iversen drops back to pass, defensive linemen wanting to rip his head off may make him feel uncomfortable. However, he must find comfort knowing that one of the best receivers in the league has just used the opposing cornerback and is waiting to catch anything thrown near him. Senior receiver Eric Andersen is the player in which a quarterback can find refuge and for his outstanding play he is Blueprint's Male Athlete of the Issue. "When I throw it up to Eric I know he'll get to it even if the coverage is tight because he adjusts to the ball so well," said Iversen. Even for a team that is just learning about the air attack, Andersen's numbers are impressive. In four games Andersen has 20 catches for 358 yards and four touchdowns.



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Laura Cox

Every team wanting to succeed needs a got-to player, a player they can rely on in the clutch, a player they can look to as a leader. The Acalanes girl's volleyball team has found that necessary combination in senior outside hitter and co-captain Laura Cox. Cox has been the go-to outside hitter for the Dons this season, keeping the squad in contention with a 6-5 record overall and a 1-2 record in league. For this she is Blueprint's Female Athlete of the Issue. "When everyone's down, she's the one that pumps everyone back up," said fellow senior and teammate Erin Hafey. Highlights of Cox's season so far are seven kills and four service aces against the Dublin Gaels and strong play that carried the Dons through the Castro Valley tournament.